

Ticoalu for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Gabrina Ticoalu is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gabrina Ticoalu is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Gabrina Ticoalu for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF CDR ERIC
BROMLEY, USN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Commander (CDR) Eric Bromley taking command of VRC-40 Rawhides.

CDR Bromley began his naval career upon graduating the U.S. Naval Academy in 2000, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering. After graduation, he trained as a Naval Aviator and was assigned to VAW-120 Greyhawks based in Norfolk, VA for Fleet Replacement Training. Eric was then assigned to VRC-40 Rawhides in Norfolk, VA to serve as a Detachment Administrative Officer, Schedules Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer. He was later assigned to VA-120 where he served as an Instructor Pilot, Aircraft Branch Officer, and C-2A Training Officer.

CDR Bromley served on board the USS *Carl Vinson* as a V-4 and V-5 Division Officer, served as "Top Cat" Shooter, and was elected Wardroom President. In 2011, he returned to VRC-40 to serve as a Maintenance Officer and Detachment Officer-In-Charge with Detachment Three with the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*. He also served as a Branch Chief at U.S. Northern Command in Colorado. CDR Bromley currently serves as the Executive Officer for VRC-40 Rawhides after logging over 2,200 flight hours, earning the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (3), and Defense Meritorious Service Medal. Eric will be taking command of VRC-40 effective April 27, 2018.

Eric served as my Congressional Defense Fellow in 2014. In this role, I relied on CDR Bromley for his subject matter expertise regarding the United States Navy in critical areas such as training, readiness, and manning. His work ethic, servant leadership, and devotion to duty represent what is best in our nation and military. He is respected by his sailors and is deserving of this leadership position.

I would like to thank CDR Bromley for his service to the First District of Virginia and the Nation. May God bless Eric, his wife Jenny, and their three children, as they take this next step in their lives.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
RAYMOND E. FLICKINGER, JR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that while there is record turnover in high level federal government positions, the opposite is true in Barberton, Ohio.

For 70 years, the Barberton Finance Director position has been held by only two men, a father and his son. Raymond E. Flickinger Sr. and Raymond E. Flickinger Jr. have held the purse strings in Barberton all that time.

Ray Sr. took office in 1948. In 1978, Ray Jr. became the assistant city finance director. Ray Sr. retired in 1980 and Ray Jr. took over as Director. On March 31, Ray Jr. stepped down from his position.

Mayor William Judge whose father also served as Mayor noted that Ray has "weathered storms and kept on top of them." I want to congratulate and thank the Flickingers for two lifetimes of public service. I am inspired by these two dedicated officials who did their duty day after day and met the challenges of service for so many years. All the best to Ray Flickinger Jr. in retirement.

I include in the RECORD an article that appeared in the The Akron Beacon Journal on March 26.

FATHER AND SON GUIDED BARBERTON CITY FINANCES FOR 70 YEARS; ERA WILL END THIS MONTH

(By Paula Schleis)

BARBERTON—For 70 years, the man in charge of the city's purse strings has answered to the name Raymond E. Flickinger.

First dad, then son, in a tenure so taken for granted that no one has bothered to challenge either at the ballot since 1968.

The era will end on March 31 when Barberton Finance Director Raymond E. Flickinger—the younger—retires and hands the city's ledger over to someone with a different name.

"It's time," Flickinger said, a smile suggesting that he's already counting down the hours.

While the elder and the younger both held the same post, their jobs were wildly different, covering dramatically different eras as this blue-collar city rose, fell and then embarked on some modern soul-searching.

The elder Raymond E. Flickinger was born in 1910—less than two decades after the town was founded—and grew up in the family's grocery business. Flickinger's, the store, was once an icon in downtown Barberton.

Ray Sr. took his turn on the European front during World War II, participating in the invasion of Normandy.

Two years after the war ended, the local Democratic Party asked if he'd run for the open seat of city auditor a post that would later evolve into finance director.

He won, took office in 1948 and started on-the-job training.

"Things were a lot simpler then," the younger Flickinger said of his dad's era. There were payrolls to make and budgets to balance, but "you didn't have accounting standards back then."

SIMPLER BUDGET

Seated in his office, Flickinger pulled an old booklet from a shelf of documents. It was the city budget from 1954, a 28-page pamphlet itemizing \$757,000 in income and expenditures. Flickinger compares it to this

year's city budget. Almost \$18 million. It takes a nearly 200-page booklet to explain it.

Flickinger, the younger, started doing some light bookkeeping for his dad when he was still in high school.

"He paid me out of his own pocket to do things for him," Flickinger said.

He never expected it to be his career.

"We didn't have a plan for me to take over," he said.

Yet by 1975, wouldn't you know it, that's exactly the course he found himself on. The city hired him as a full-time accountant. By 1978, he was the city's assistant finance director, his dad's second in command.

"Nepotism wasn't an issue back in the day," he chuckled. City Council approved the promotion. No one batted an eye. It was universally accepted that Flickinger, the elder, would groom his son to take over after his own upcoming retirement.

In 1980, after 32 years, the elder stepped down, the younger stepped up. No need to change the name on the office door.

Ray Sr. was 72 when he retired. He hadn't been in a hurry.

"He loved working," his son said. "It was pretty much his life. He was one of those people who could have just worked till he died." But he didn't. He died in 1998.

Barberton was a very different city when Ray Jr. took over.

When his father first became auditor, Barberton was a manufacturing powerhouse. Its founding was unique in Ohio, an industrial community planned by industrialist Ohio Columbus Barber, who set up half a dozen of his own factories and populated them with tens of thousands of immigrants and Appalachian transplants.

But by 1980, the place nicknamed the "Magic City" because of its overnight rise had become a poster child for the Rust Belt.

The younger Flickinger helped navigate Barberton through a recession, a period when many cities were going into default.

"It was thought that cities should start following the same accounting standards as private industry," he said.

What followed were challenging, time-consuming and often mind-numbing rules and regulations. Flickinger rolled with the punches, supported by a talented staff that helped his office evolve into a department that needed to know as much law as finance.

That's also about the time that Flickinger decided on a new administrative style: Avoid the limelight at all costs.

NATIONAL NEWS

Barberton's waning fortunes made national news, and Flickinger found himself quoted in a New York Times story about the town's struggle. The very next day, a representative from a bond rating firm called Flickinger to announce the city was being downgraded because of the story. Flickinger snorted: "I decided I was better off staying in the background. I'm honest and I'll tell people like it is. But I don't need to hear myself talk."

That's a trait that came to Mayor Bill Judge's mind immediately when asked to describe his finance director.

"He does a great job of explaining things, and he's always been the go-to guy, and for that he should have an ego, a big one," Judge said. "But he doesn't have an ego."

Barberton gradually started to recover in the 1990s.

"But the more you collect, the more you spend," Flickinger said. Road programs expanded. Health care costs rose. EPA standards added to the cost of maintaining a city water and sewer department. Salaries ballooned.

In 1954, that little budget pamphlet said \$263,000 was spent on the city's safety forces. In 2018, police and fire will cost residents \$11.2 million.